

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES 2004 HIGH SCHOOL AIMS TEST ITEMS**

PHOENIX (Tuesday, November 16, 2004) -- As part of Superintendent Horne's ongoing efforts to improve the communication of academic expectations, the Arizona Department of Education is releasing High School Reading, Writing, and Mathematics items to the public. This release is intended to provide students, parents, teachers, and the community with specific examples of the types of skills being assessed on the AIMS tests.

Horne stated: "Getting testing information into the community as quickly as possible is a major goal of the Department's. I want parents to know what is being tested, and students to be able to practice with the most current testing items possible."

This release includes two Reading passages, directions, and the items associated with them, in the form of a mini-test. The Reading section is followed by the Writing section that includes the subject to be written about and directions used in the AIMS test administered in the spring of 2004. This is followed by the individual items with the correct answers and statistical information.

The Mathematics section consists of eighteen items in the form of a mini-test, followed by the individual items and statistics.

The statistical information provided includes:

- 1) Item identification number;
- 2) Correct answer;
- 3) Response probability (p-value), which represents the percentage of students who answered the question correctly;
- 4) Rasch difficulty, which measures the difficulty of the item on a scale in which -3 indicates a very easy item and +3 indicates an extremely difficult item;
- 5) Original performance objective (parent PO) that the item was used to measure; and
- 6) The performance objective as the item aligns to the 2003 standards.

The items are reproductions of the actual items as they appeared on the AIMS tests.

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